

Application No. 09/670,884

10. (Amended) A classifier wheel comprising:  
an upper solid surface and a lower surface with a first circular opening  
therein;  
a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower  
surface at the peripheral edges of the upper and lower surfaces, and  
an article comprising:  
a disk with a circular opening in the center of the disk; and  
a fastener adapted to concentrically attach the disk to the particle outlet opening of  
said classifier wheel and wherein said article is fixed to the lower surface which forms  
a second circular opening within the first circular opening and reduces the diameter of  
the first circular opening.

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16. (Amended) An apparatus for the classification of solid particulates entrained in a fluid, comprising:

a housing provided with a feed inlet, a fine fraction outlet, and a coarse fraction outlet; and

a classifier wheel comprising an upper solid surface and a lower surface with a first circular opening therein;

a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface at the peripheral edges of the upper and lower surfaces, and

an article comprising:

a disk with a circular opening in the center of the disk; and

a fastener adapted to concentrically attach the disk to the particle outlet opening of said classifier wheel and wherein said article is fixed to the lower surface which forms a second circular opening within the first circular opening and reduces the diameter of the first circular opening and an article comprising:

a disk with a circular opening in the center of the disk; and

a fastener adapted to concentrically attach the disk to the particle outlet opening of a classifier wheel.